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# PROCEEDINGS OF THE ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

JANUARY 8 TO MAY 18, 1901

January 8, 1901

The 311th regular and 22d annual meeting of the Anthropological Society of Washington was held in the assembly hall of the Cosmos Club, with President W J McGee in the chair.

The minutes of the 310th regular meeting and of the 21st annual meeting were read and approved. The reports of the General Secretary, the Secretary of the Board of Managers, and the Treasurer were read, accepted, and placed on file.

Two amendments to the By-laws were taken up, considered, and lost. An amendment to Article I, Section 6, was proposed by Dr D. S. Lamb, to be acted on at the next annual meeting.

This being the time for the election of officers for the ensuing year, the following were elected by ballot : President, W. H. Holmes ; General Secretary, Hannah L. Bartlett ; Treasurer, P. B. Pierce ; Curator, Marianna P. Seaman ; Members of the Council : Alice C. Fletcher, J. Walter Fewkes, J. D. McGuire.

Meeting adjourned.

H. L. BARTLETT, *General Secretary*.

January 22, 1901

The 312th regular meeting of the Anthropological Society was held in the assembly hall of the Cosmos Club. On account of the illness of President Holmes, Miss Fletcher, one of the Vice-Presidents, occupied the chair.

The minutes of the 311th regular meeting and the 22d annual meeting were read and approved. The Secretary of the Board of Managers announced the election to active membership of Mrs Sarah S. James, Victor Mindeleff, and Dr Immanuel M. Casanowicz, all of Washington, D. C.

An antique German clock was exhibited by Dr G. M. Kober. Mr W J McGee gave a brief account of the Topeka-Cocopa expedition into Mexico during the last autumn.

The paper of the evening was on "Philology" by Major J. W. Powell. (Major Powell's paper appears in the *American Anthropologist*, Vol. 2, No. 4, pp. 603-637.)

Meeting adjourned.

H. L. BARTLETT, *General Secretary*.

#### February 9, 1901

The 313th regular meeting of the Anthropological Society was held in the assembly hall of the Cosmos Club, the President, W. H. Holmes, in the chair.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. The President announced the death of three members of the Society, namely, Col. F. F. Hilder, Mr Miles Rock, and Dr Samuel C. Busey.

Mr Paul Brockett exhibited a facsimile of an ancient Mexican codex and a modern Japanese book. A Peruvian mummy was unwrapped by Mr W. H. Holmes and Dr Walter Hough of the National Museum. The paper of the evening was "The Peopling of America," by W. H. Holmes.

Meeting adjourned.

H. L. BARTLETT, *General Secretary*.

#### February 26, 1901

The 314th regular meeting of the Anthropological Society was held at Columbian University, under the auspices of the Washington Academy of Sciences, when the annual address was given by Mr W J McGee, the retiring President of the Society. The subject was "Man's Place in Nature." (Mr McGee's address appears in the *American Anthropologist*, Vol. 3, No. 1, pp. 1-13.)

Meeting adjourned.

H. L. BARTLETT, *General Secretary*.

#### March 12, 1901

The 315th regular meeting of the Anthropological Society was held in the assembly hall of the Cosmos Club, with President Holmes in the chair.

The minutes of the 313th and 314th meetings were read and approved. Dr J. Walter Fewkes exhibited some historical documents, including one old map of what is now Arizona and New Mexico, made

by the Franciscan friar Menchero ; a copy of a map made about the year 1500 by Juan de la Cosa ; and a manuscript by Alzate y Ramirez, being a description of the ruin of Xochicalco. Mr W. H. Holmes exhibited some instruments of torture from Hanover, and an iron frame used to inclose the body of a criminal sentenced to be "hung in chains," found in Virginia two years since.

The first paper of the evening was "Ethnology in the Jesuit Relations," by Mr J. D. McGuire. (This paper has been published in the *American Anthropologist*, Vol. 3, No. 2, pp. 257-269.)

The second contribution was an address on "The Cocopa Indians" by Mr W J McGee. The speaker described the physical characteristics and activities of the Cocopa Indians occupying the lower valley of the Rio Colorado, in both Sonora and Lower California. Special attention was given to the primitive agriculture of the tribe, in which aboriginal corn, beans, and squashes are planted and harvested, and to the manner in which this agriculture is conditioned by the annual freshets of the river. Attention was also given to the social organization of the tribe, and to the influence exerted on the tribal life by mortuary customs and other ceremonies. The Cocopa were discovered by Alarcon and Melchior Diaz in 1540. They formerly numbered thousands, but are greatly reduced. By their own estimates they reached one thousand in 1890, but little, if any, more than five hundred in 1900. The speaker gave the leading factor in their decline as undoubtedly the adoption of Caucasian clothing, which is unsuitable to their riparian habits and flimsy habitations.

Meeting adjourned.

H. L. BARTLETT, *General Secretary*.

March 26, 1901

The 316th regular meeting of the Anthropological Society was held in the assembly hall of the Cosmos Club, with Vice-President Lamb in the chair.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. The Secretary of the Board of Managers announced the election to active membership of Mr George R. Davitt.

Mr William Palmer, of the National Museum, gave a practical illustration of the making of a life-mask. Dr Casanowicz exhibited some Assyrian seals from Hillah ; also some magic bowls, or Jewish incantation bowls. Mr Holmes showed some remarkably fine stone knives.

The paper of the evening was by Dr W. W. Johnston, and was entitled "The Ill-health of Charles Darwin : its Nature and its Relation

to his Work." (Dr Johnston's paper appears in the *American Anthropologist*, Vol. 3, No. 1, pp. 139-158.)

Meeting adjourned.

H. L. BARTLETT, *General Secretary*.

April 9, 1901

The 317th regular meeting of the Anthropological Society was held in the assembly hall of the Cosmos Club, with the President, W. H. Holmes, in the chair.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. The Secretary of the Board of Managers announced the election to active membership of Henry D. Parson, Constance Goddard Du Bois, Paul Beckwith, George C. Maynard, and George A. Dorsey, and the reinstatement of Thomas C. Robinson.

Mr George C. Maynard exhibited a sun-dial used by the Indians of Labrador, a water clock of the seventeenth century, sand glasses of the fourteenth century, some time-keeping lamps, and a model of a time-keeping candle.

The subject of the paper of the evening was "The Immigration Question" by Mr Edward F. McSweeney, Assistant Commissioner of Immigration, Port of New York. The speaker alluded to the manifold causes of migration—famine, desire for conquest, ambition, religious persecution, political revolution, and love of gold (the most potent factor). Between 1790 and 1820 only 250,000 immigrants came to America; between 1820 and 1900 more than 25,000,000 left their homes as emigrants. While in former years most of the immigrants came from Ireland and Germany, now they come mainly from Austria-Hungary, Italy, and the Orient—including Greeks, Armenians, and Arabs. The latter are the most undesirable class we have to deal with on account of their laziness and criminal propensities. The races whose coming to America has been productive of the most good are those of strong religious faith, viz., the Germans, Irish, and Scandinavians; while most of the races now coming seem to have little care for religion of any sort. Wages have been highest during those years of the greatest immigration. The Federal Government took control of the immigration question for the Port of New York in 1890, and under the law paupers, idiots, insane persons, persons suffering from dangerous contagious diseases, and persons coming under contract to perform labor in the United States are forbidden to land, and the steamship companies are required to return them free of charge. The speaker recalled the

fact that the decline of Rome dated from the rise of the alien races and advised this country to give careful consideration to the whole question.

Meeting adjourned.

H. L. BARTLETT, *General Secretary*.

April 23, 1901

The 318th regular meeting of the Anthropological Society was held in the assembly hall of the Cosmos Club, with Vice-President McGee in the chair.

The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved. Mr C. H. Townsend exhibited some implements of the Polynesian *tapa* industry and explained the process of making *tapa* cloth from the bark of a species of mulberry tree ; he also showed samples of the Hawaiian *tapa* cloth which displayed beauty and variety of color and design.

Mrs Zelia Nuttall presented two papers, namely, " Ancient Mexican Manuscripts and their Mode of Decipherment," and " Chalchihuitl in Ancient Mexico." Mrs Nuttall exhibited a facsimile copy of the ancient Mexican codex which she recently brought to light in England, and gave a brief account of its history and contents. She explained the principles of ancient Mexican pictography and drew on the blackboard a number of native hieroglyphs taken from various codices, and representing local and personal names. The native method was demonstrated by a series of examples of the manner in which Mexican scribes recorded the names and titles of Spanish viceroys and governors in hieroglyphs. (Mrs Nuttall's paper on " Chalchihuitl in Ancient Mexico " appears in the *American Anthropologist*, Vol. 3, No. 2, pp. 227-238.)

Meeting adjourned.

H. L. BARTLETT, *General Secretary*.

May 4, 1901

The 319th regular meeting of the Anthropological Society was held in the assembly hall of the Cosmos Club with the President, W. H. Holmes, in the chair. The minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

Mr W J McGee, in an address on " Poisoned Arrows," noted that the arrow-poison of the American Indian is magical or thaumaturgic or necromantic in motive. The speaker mentioned cases in which the brews of the aboriginal magicians were necessarily septic and hence sometimes effective in producing death ; and he exhibited a bow made by a Pamunky-Tuscarora Indian, to which magical potency was believed to be given by a carved effigy head at one end — this head

being provided with horns in order that the arrows shot from it might be penetrating, and with snake-rattle ear-pendants in order that they might be venomous. In use both this effigy and the arrows were treated with a brew, made by extracting the head-contents of a number of rattle-snakes and cooking them in an earthen vessel until the fat arose in a scum; this was set aside for ten days, after which it was ready for use. In connection with the discussion which followed, the speaker questioned whether any native American Indian ever produced a vegetal poison capable of effective use on arrows, and urged the extreme desirability of careful observation so made as to discriminate between the incidental septicemia apparently produced in some cases and actual toxic poisoning.

Mr Holmes exhibited a South American blow-gun obtained by Professor Stein's expedition up the Amazon, together with a belt of bark worn by the user of the gun and a bottle of poison for poisoning the arrows.

Dr D. S. Lamb presented a paper on "Mummies and Mummification, Especially of the Brain." (This paper appears in the *American Anthropologist*, Vol. 3, No. 2, pp. 294-307.)

Dr A. R. Spofford, Assistant Librarian of Congress, presented a paper on "Early and Rare Books Relating to American Indians." (Dr Spofford's paper appears in the *American Anthropologist*, Vol. 3, No. 2, pp. 270-285.)

Meeting adjourned.

H. L. BARTLETT, *General Secretary*.

May 18, 1901

The 320th regular meeting of the Anthropological Society was held in the assembly hall of the Cosmos Club, Vice-President Lamb in the chair. Minutes of the last meeting were read and approved.

The early part of the evening was devoted to memorials on members lately deceased: Memorial on Dr Samuel Claggett Busey, by Dr D. S. Lamb; on Col. F. F. Hilder, by Mr W J McGee; and on Miles Rock, by Mr William Eimbeck.

A paper on "West Indian Idols and Totemism" was read by Dr J. Walter Fewkes.

Meeting adjourned.

H. L. BARTLETT, *General Secretary*.